

A Wealth of Ways to Give

Giving back to the community is second nature to many Laboratory employees. Since 1955, the Laboratory's HOME (Helping Others More Effectively) Campaign has raised nearly \$6 million and has made the Laboratory one of the largest single contributors to a number of Tri-Valley charities. Over the years, other individuals and groups have also come together, donating their own time and resources to help those in need.

Toys for Children Project

Paul Diniz, Carpenter and Paint Shop supervisor at Site 300, remembers starting the Toys for Children Project in 1989. Paul noticed an opportunity when he came to work at the Lab—some of the scrap materials, wood and so forth, could be used to make toys for needy families. After overcoming a few legalistic obstacles, a dozen or so carpenters designed their own toys and made six or seven of them. The cars, trucks, trains, and cradles were then painted and sealed in the Paint Shop, led by Rich Perry. Shepherd's Gate, a home for battered women and children in Livermore, was the first agency to receive the handmade toys. Other homes, including some from neighboring San Joaquin County, were soon added with the help of Irene Jimenez.

Over the years, more and more employees became involved in the Toys for Children Project. The second year, the Lab's quilting club, the Piecemakers, began making the cradle bedding and donating the dolls. Administrative personnel began spending lunch hours adding artistic touches to the toys. And Lynn Groves from B Division began donating toys through her recycling project. As a result of the efforts of many, Toys for Children now gives out about 1,500 toys a year. Paul says, "When the homes come to pick up the toys, they'll each bring a couple of children. As soon as they come in, you see the smiles on the children's faces, and that's what makes it all worthwhile."

B Division

For the past 10 years, Lynn Groves, a computer coordinator in B Division, has collected and recycled cans, bottles, and plastic to buy toys for needy children. She also collects books and holds one or two annual book sales and raffles off quilts to raise money for toys. During the holiday season, B Division selects from one to three needy families, and Lynn is the one who spearheads the gathering of food, toys, and clothes. She then delivers gifts to the families assisted by her husband, George. Lynn also works with the Plant Engineering Carpenter Shop to fill their handmade cradles and toolboxes. Throughout the year, Lynn and George

shop for sales on toys and clothes, spending many of their weekends and evenings looking for bargains. Lynn says, "Oh, I fall into these wonderful sales. One afternoon, I went into KayBee Toys, just on a whim, and they had just got in the inventory from the eToys Web site collapse. So I filled my car—twice!"

ANGEL

Wanda Kelly-Grijalva, a Protective Services Officer at the Laboratory since 1989, is the president of Assisting Needy Giving Everlasting Love (ANGEL). ANGEL now raises money through the HOME Campaign as well as by holding fundraisers throughout the year. Wanda explains, "I always wanted to start a charity because I wanted to know exactly where my money is going. I know now because I am part of it."

ANGEL has supported the Children's Hospital in Oakland, area homeless shelters, survivors of September 11, Special Olympics of California, and numerous other charities. Sometimes, an employee will bring to ANGEL's attention a child who is terminally ill or disabled and in need of financial help for medical expenses, and ANGEL will set up a bank account and collect donations. Wanda recalls a boy named Tyrone at Children's Hospital who really touched her heart. In 1999, he had been shot in the neck and spine and lost the use of all four limbs. "All he wanted for Christmas was to go home, so we paid every year for the medical ambulance transportation to take him home. And this year we were able to get him home for good because we helped pay off the special van that he needed."

Brighter Holidays

In the late 1980s, a group called Brighter Holidays (previously called Lab Lends a Light) was formed by former Laboratory employee Betty Klimo and her husband, Norm, to help families during the holidays who had fallen on hard times. Last year, Brighter Holidays participated in a food drive for the homeless shelters.

Annette Springer, an administrative specialist in the National Ignition Facility programs, became involved in Brighter Holidays back in 1991. A day or two before delivery day, a team of shoppers heads to the local Costco Wholesale store. This past year, Annette along with Mary Colborn, Staci Riggs, and Cary Gellner filled two vans and two pickups with almost \$2,000 worth of food and cleaning products. Annette says there are also many employees "working behind the scenes. Just the unloading is incredible!"

Thanks to Steve Werbowski and Irene Jimenez for their contribution to this story.



Mountains of gifts, both bought and made, are a regular sight around the Lab during the holiday season.